

Carolina Country.

December 1979

THE CHRISTMAS TREE
A Major Tar Heel Crop, Pages 6-7
The Tradition's Origin, Pages 8-9



A Matter of National Will

The flow of oil into the U.S. from Iran has once again been cut off as a result of that nation's political and social upheaval, aggravating America's already perilous energy shortage.

Perhaps this time we can learn well the lessons that have escaped our grasp in the past:

- That this great country cannot continue to pay financial and emotional blackmail for oil, however precious it may be.

- That Americans cannot continue a lifestyle of consumption that fosters extravagant and wasteful use of petroleum products—at a rate of 18 million barrels a day—while the nation is dependent upon unstable OPEC sources for most of its oil supply.

- That drastic short-term measures must be taken soon to make more effective use of the oil now available to the U.S.

- That the long-range goal of energy independence must take priority over all others on the nation's agenda for action.

Masters of Our Own Destiny

In cutting off oil imports from Iran, President Carter proved that becoming the masters of our own energy destiny is as much a matter of national will as it is a matter of market place supply and demand.

We may find ourselves relying heavily on such a national will long after the drama of the current Iranian crisis has been played out, for relations between the two countries may never again permit shipments of Iranian oil to the U.S. Indeed, given the uncertainties of Iran's political

situation, the country's oil production could be cut back or halted at any time.

Meanwhile, how can we cope with a national energy shortfall which had already reached about 400,000 barrels of oil per day before the Iranian imports were cut off?

Coping Not So Difficult

It's not as difficult as it may appear, according to Allan Grant, a farmer from Visalia, Calif., who serves as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

In an address before the Food and Energy Council last August, Grant pointed out that most of the shortfall could be covered by simply relaxing certain federal regulations on a temporary basis.

For example, he said, "unleaded gasoline is demanded under provisions of the Clean Air Act," despite the fact that making it requires between 7 and 15 percent more crude oil than other gasoline grades.

"With the prohibition of other known and effective octane-boosting additives, unleaded gas requirements cost us anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 barrels of crude oil per day," Grant said.

Relaxing these standards—which are already being undermined by motorists who operate their "unleaded fuel only" vehicles with other types of gasoline—would bring immediate relief in the oil shortage without significantly affecting air quality or human health.

In addition, temporarily relaxing restrictions on the use of higher sulfur fuel oils and coal for generating

electricity would bring a net savings 10,000 to 20,000 barrels of oil per day, according to Department of Energy estimates. Industry officials say the savings could be as high as 100,000 barrels per day.

Grant pointed out that yet another 350,000 barrels of oil per day could be saved if generating facilities which were earlier converted from natural gas to oil could be reconverted back to natural gas.

Other stopgap measures that could be used, he said, include drawing down Naval reserves in California and Wyoming and tapping the supply in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which was established after the OPEC oil embargo of 1973-74.

More incentives could be provided to encourage weatherization and energy conservation on the part of industries, businesses and homeowners. And, the nation's nuclear power plants could be taken out from under the snarls of post-Three Mile Island red tape to provide a far larger share of U.S. energy requirements than they do at present.

Forge A Commitment

These options and others could be exercised almost immediately if we can build on the country's anti-Iranian fervor to forge a national commitment to energy independence.

With that, perhaps the president, Congress, the federal bureaucracy, and private enterprise can even find a way to overcome their differences and join forces in the interest of achieving this great goal.

It's simply a matter of national will.

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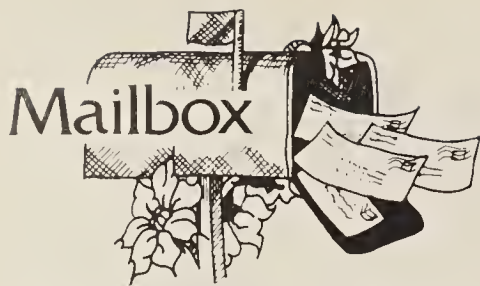
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WHEN USING FIREARMS, PROTECT YOUR HEARING WITH EAR PLUGS

Dear Ms. Elliott of "Handicapped Mailbag":

Just about anything about hearing and deafness tends to catch my eye and your response to R.P. in the October, 1979, issue of *Carolina Country* was no exception. I suspect you may have been trying to keep things simple, but in doing so made some misstatements.

Deafness does *not* mean that "one has no hearing at all". It does refer to the inability to understand normal conversational speech with or without a hearing aid (amplification), loosely speaking, and many deaf people are still able

to hear some. A hearing loss may result in the loss of the "ability to distinguish certain sounds", but more commonly refers to a general loss of sensitivity to all sound, again, loosely speaking. It refers to a loss of acuity below the level of being deaf.

A person who suffers damage to the nerve endings in the inner ear, as the result of overexposure to firearm blasts, generally suffers the initial loss at about 8,000 hertz (cycles per second). This has been referred to as the Carhart Notch in honor of the audiologist, Raymond Carhart, who first reported the phenomenon.

Continued exposure will usually result in a broader range of loss. Perhaps it is this phenomenon you really intended to explain as hearing loss. It is, at least initially, a selective loss.

Risk Greater Away From Gun

But, these are rather minor points. The major point of concern I have is the inaccurate inference

that the ear next to the gun is the ear at most risk. The fact is, it is the ear away from the gun that is usually affected first and most severely for it is the ear which is exposed to the muzzle of the gun from which the shock wave is causing damage emanate.

The ear next to the gun is usually turned away from the muzzle and the mass of the head absorbs the sound waves before they get to the ear. So, for a right-handed shooter, the left ear is the more exposed, risk ear. For the left-handed shooter, it is the right ear.

Ear Flaps Won't Help

I am trying to be very brief as you see, the whole matter is rather a complex one. Nevertheless, I would like to underscore David Eckstein's recommendation to wear ear plugs whenever shooting. Ear flaps won't help much, but plugs will.

Glenn T. Lloyd, Ed.

Professor

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ENJOYS EDITORIALS; SEEKS INFORMATION ON MAGAZINE

I read your magazine with great enjoyment, especially your "Viewpoint" or editorial. . . . While living in New Jersey, I occasionally got a copy of a magazine called *Hoard's Dairyman*. I can't seem to find a copy here in North Carolina—nor do I know where to write for a subscription. Any help you could give on this will be greatly appreciated.

You've got a great magazine. Keep up the good works.

R.S. Nixon

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For subscription information on *Hoard's Dairyman*, write to the publication's editor, W. D. Knox, 28 Milwaukee Ave., Fort Atkinson, Wis. 53538.

Lane

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A Record Tar Heel Crop:

Tar Heel farmers are expected to harvest a record 1.4 million Christmas trees for sale this season, according to estimates by William T. Huxster, extension forestry specialist at North Carolina State University.

"We've had a 40 percent increase in our Christmas tree harvest in just two years," Huxster said.

For a story on the origin of the Christmas tree, See Pages 8-9

And, he added, even bigger crops are on the way.

Farmers of the state planted an estimated 5 million new trees in 1977 and again in 1978, and 5.5 million in 1979. After another

couple of years of relatively modest growth, the specialist said, supplies will increase sharply.

From six to eight years are required to grow Christmas trees of the most popular sizes.

"We're now cutting about 4 percent of the Christmas trees sold each year in the United States, and the percentage will be even higher in the years ahead. Our goal is 15 percent of the national market," Huxster said.

About 60 percent of the Tar Heel crop is shipped out of state.

Christmas trees grown in North Carolina consist primarily of four native species—Fraser fir, white pine, Virginia pine and Eastern red cedar.

The latter is grown mostly in the

Piedmont and eastern sections of the state. The cedars are not shipped but are used locally. About 400,000 were planted in the state last year.

The "pick your own" idea developed on produce farms is now being used as a "cut your own" practice on many Christmas tree farms. Buyers can personally select their trees and save money by doing the cutting.

Wake is one of the counties where more and more cut-your-own Yule tree operations can be found, Huxster said.

At a conservatively estimated field price of \$7 per tree, this year's harvest of Christmas trees in the state will bring growers approximately \$9.8 million. The retail value, of course, will be considerably higher.

Kent Poe

For Kent Poe of Ashe County, the orderly ranks of Fraser firs and white pines on the steep slopes behind his home are far more than just a few Christmas trees to sell during the Yuletide season.

He sees them as part of an excellent conservation program which keeps his topsoil in place and also provides a teaching laboratory for his students at the Ashe County Vocational Center.

First and foremost, he considers the trees a conservation measure. He has a conservation plan with the New River Soil and Water Conservation District, and one of his key advisors on the entire operation is Toy Campbell Jefferson, District Conservation Officer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service.

He also relies on specialists from the North Carolina Forest Service and from the Agricultural Extension Service for assistance.

Poe is active in the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association as well—an exchange of ideas with others in the



ABOVE—A healthy stand of Fraser firs on the Kent Poe farm in Ashe County. RIGHT—Kent Poe, left, and SCS District Conservationist Toy N. Campbell Jr. discuss Poe's success in growing Christmas trees to prevent soil erosion.

Photos by Frank Jeter Jr., public information officer for USDA-Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina.



4,400,000 Christmas Trees

Sales of "living" Christmas trees have been increasing. These are trees sold with the roots on, so the buyers can take them home, plant them and continue to have them for several years.

Living trees require special handling.

"The species you buy is important," Huxster said. "Make sure you get a tree that will grow in your area. Get professional advice and deal with reputable people."

Most Christmas trees produced in North Carolina are still shipped and sold as cut trees.

The number of growers has doubled in just five years. In two mountain counties, Avery and Jackson, Christmas trees are the leading source of farm income.

Anyone desiring to get into the business now "had better make up his mind to grow good ones — because there will be strong competition in the years ahead," the NCSU specialist said.

"The Christmas tree," Huxster

Teletip Offers Advice On Selecting Trees

Information on buying and caring for Christmas trees, both living and cut, may be obtained by calling Teletip, a statewide toll-free service operated by the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

The Teletip number is 1-800-662-7301. County extension offices have directories listing the names and number of tapes that may be heard.

noted, "is an intensively managed, short-rotation forest crop. In producing it the grower utilizes agricultural and horticultural type practices and markets the product through traditional agricultural channels. The tree is a perishable, aesthetic product which must be free of insects and diseases. The seed came from the forest."

Huxster's advice to buyers: Select a good, fresh tree with pliable needles, and buy early. After taking the tree home, make a fresh cut at the base and place the tree in water to prevent drying out and shedding of leaves. After the holidays the tree can be used to provide shelter for birds and a place for them to feed, or it can be converted to mulch or burned.

—Bill Humphries
NCSU Agricultural Information

Yule Crop "Improves The Environment"

ame business.

Despite the extreme slope of the land, he has managed to achieve "zero runoff" of topsoil since he first planted trees back in 1965. A thick growth of grass protects the topsoil between the ranks of trees, and the rows are planted in harmony with the slope of the land to prevent washing.

Before harvesting began for the 1979 season, the operation had some 10,000 white pine at various stages of growth (it takes six to 10 years to produce market trees, six to seven feet tall) and 3,000 Fraser firs. Some of the trees are grown in partnership with others, including Poe's brother Paul Poe.

"When I plant Christmas trees, and give them the year-round attention they must have, I feel that I'm improving the environment. For me, that's the big reward," he said.

Why a mixture of white pine and Fraser firs? Many Christmas tree growers consider the Fraser the premium tree in North Carolina, and one that grows best in the

mountains of the state.

"The Fraser will sell for more, perhaps \$4 more—but it takes more labor and care. In addition, Fraser seedlings cost a lot more than white pine, and are harder to obtain. And finally, you have to add 10-10-10 fertilizer to Fraser, because they really need nitrogen. White pine can do well without fertilizer, although we sometimes give them a shot of ammonium nitrate around market time to provide prettier color," explained Poe.

Although a native son of Ashe County, Kent Poe went to Kentucky to attend college. He received his B.S. in agriculture from Berea College, and the M.S. in agricultural education from the University of Kentucky.

In addition to his activity with fellow Christmas tree producers, Poe is active in his community. He is past president of the Central Ashe Optimist Club, and is an adult Sunday School teacher at Sugar Tree Baptist Church.

He is married to the former Joann Dishman, also an Ashe County native, and they have two daughters and two sons: Jennifer, a sophomore at Ashe Central High School; Kelly, at Jefferson Elementary School; Shawn, also at Jefferson Elementary; and Chad, the pre-school son.

For his regular day's work, Poe teaches horticulture—with some forestry—to students at the Ashe County Vocational Center, a new facility which draws students from the three high schools in this mountain county.

As part of his instruction, he often brings classes to his own land to see how trees can be grown for conservation and for the Christmas market. Although trees are his only agricultural operation, he actually "rotates his crop"—planting different kinds of trees on land in a multi-year rotation.

You can take advantage of soil types, and this helps control disease and insects," he pointed out.

—Frank Jeter Jr.
USDA Soil Conservation Service

The year was 1776 and the weather in this foreign land had been bitterly cold. It was Christmas Eve and a group of homesick Hessian soldiers huddled forlornly around their campsite on the icy banks of the Delaware River at Trenton, New Jersey. Two days later they would be taken captive in a bold maneuver by American troops under General Washington. But the last thing the Hessian brigade cared about that night was the outcome of the colonial struggle against England's mighty power.

They were far from home and they sadly missed the good cheer—the traditional *Gemuetslichkeit*—shared by family and friends at this blessed season of the year.

But gradually, as fir trees were chopped down and brought inside to be decorated with makeshift ornaments and lighted with candles in the centuries-old tradition of their forefathers, memories of happier holidays began to warm the wooden huts. And once again, as they gathered about the tree to sing the ancient Christmas hymns, the spirit of the season worked its magic spell.

So it was, by a curious twist of fate, that the Christmas tree, most revered of all the nation's Yuletide customs, was first lighted in America by a handful of homesick enemy soldiers.

The idea and the tradition of the Christmas tree spread rapidly through the young country in the years that followed. From Germany, through Europe and England and on to America—especially in the 19th century, the golden age of Christmas—the spirit of Christmas was reflected in the colorful lights and gay tree decorations.

There's a wealth of history behind that Christmas tree that sends its warm fragrance through your home today. In early Christian times, many beautiful legends were associated with the tree. One of the most popular of these was first transcribed in a

... And That's Why The Tree

By Raymond Schuessler

religious manuscript centuries ago by an unknown monk in the kingdom of Sicily. It tells how, on the night the Christ Child was born, all living creatures journeyed to the stable to pay homage to the newborn king. Even the trees joined in the pilgrimage. The olive gave its fruit and the palm its dates. But the fir tree had no gift to offer and stood humbly in the rear. An angel noted its plight and asked the stars to descend and rest in the limbs of the tree. At so beautiful a sight, the Christ Child smiled and blessed the humble fir, and says the legend, to this day the fir tree remains ever green the year round.

The Christmas tree as we know it today evolved from two medieval religious symbols, the paradise tree and the Christmas light.

In an age before books, teachers dramatized the Bible story, using a makeshift stage and simple scenery. One of the most popular presentations was the story of Adam and

Eve and the forbidden fruit. For this, a fir tree with apples tied to its branches was placed on the stage. Because the play ended with the promise of redemption, it was usually presented just before Christmas and the tree, identified with the birth of Christ, became known as the paradise tree.

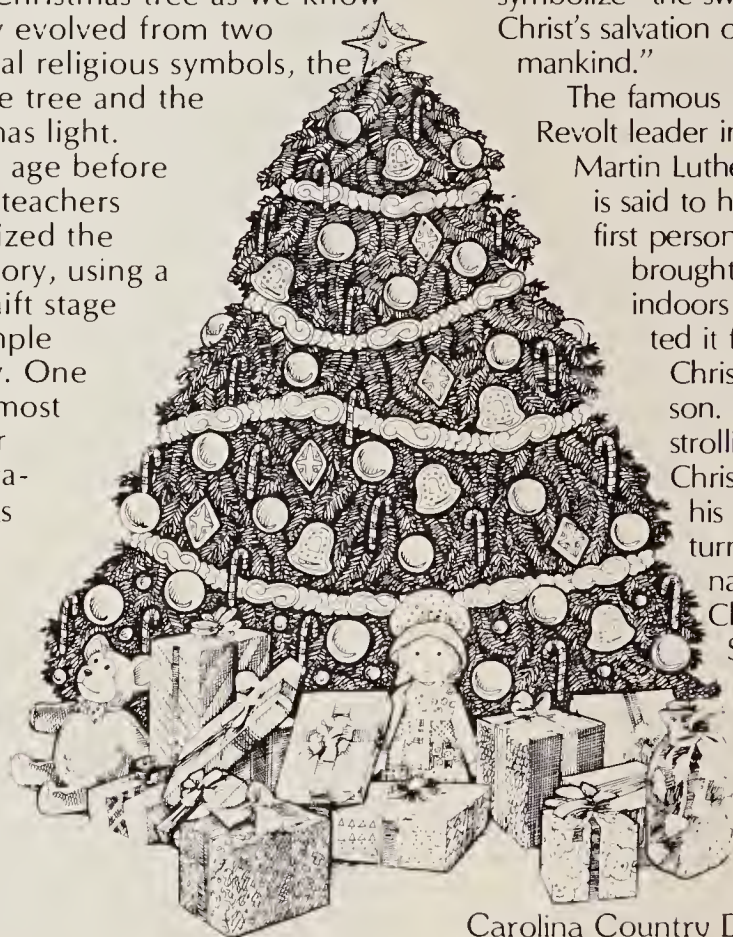
Another legend tells how one Christmas eve in the 18th century an English missionary called Wilfred cut down an oak used by German pagans for human sacrifices; a young fir tree appeared miraculously nearby, and the monk (who was to become St. Boniface) chose it as the emblem of Christianity.

All the early Christians chose the evergreen for their Christmas festivities because its branches repeat the shape of the cross and its needles, green throughout the year, symbolize eternal life.

The Christmas light was a candle burned on Christmas Eve as a symbol of the coming of the light to the world. It was often mounted on a pyramid decorated with glittering tinsel and glass balls.

Tree and lights first were combined in Germany in the 16th century. In time, cookies and other pastries were added to symbolize "the sweet fruit of Christ's salvation of all mankind."

The famous Protestant Revolt leader in Germany, Martin Luther (1483-1546) is said to have been the first person who brought the tree indoors and decorated it for the Christmas season. Luther, while strolling one Christmas Eve had his thoughts turned to the nativity of the Christ Child. Struck with awe by the heavens'



beauty and the winter landscape—blue light on low hills, evergreens, sparkling snowflakes—he attempted to reproduce the scene for his family when he returned home by attaching small candles to an evergreen tree.

The first Christmas tree in France is said to have been decorated in 1837 for the Duchess of Orleans who had been born and reared in Germany. Four years later, Queen Victoria trimmed a Christmas tree in Windsor Castle to please her husband, Consort Albert of Savoy.

Just when the first Christmas tree was set up by an American no one knows for sure. There is a description of Christmas festivities in 1804 in Fort Dearborn, Illinois, which mentions the Christmas tree.

Many credit Charles Follen, a German professor who taught at Harvard. In 1832 he trimmed a tree for his small son, and all Boston was impressed. Others ascribe the first tree to August Langard of Wooster, Ohio, who decorated one in 1847 "a wondrous sight that brought neighbors flocking."

Christmas trees got another big boost in 1845 when a best-selling Kriss Kringle's Christmas Tree" showed thousands of Americans how to decorate a Christmas tree. Still another boost came a decade later when Godney's Lady's Book, most influential magazine of the day, featured a steel engraving of the Windsor Castle Tree on its cover.

The Christmas tree soon became a custom with many Americans, and President Franklin Pierce made it official when in 1856, he installed the first tree in the White House.

Another President, however, Theodore Roosevelt, ordered a halt to the custom because he felt it was contrary to his policy of conserving natural resources. However, his sons smuggled in a tree and, when confronted with their "crime", they were defended by one of the nation's foremost foresters who convinced the President that planting of young evergreens

actually could help forest conservation.

Ever since, the Christmas tree in the American home has become the symbol of a living Christmas spirit that brings into our lives the fragrance and the freshness of the forest.

In the early days of this nation, cutting a Christmas tree was a big affair which called for a family excursion into the woods to select just the right tree. Today, modern forestry techniques have turned Christmas tree selection into a trip to the nearest shopping area. Trees there have been carefully grown, fertilized, sheared and protected. It takes from 6 to 12 years to grow those trees. Youngsters in many parts of the country grow them as 4-H projects.

Decorations in the early days were homemade and quite simply fashioned with paper ornaments and the things common to our agricultural past—apples, oranges, nuts, popcorn balls and strings of cranberries. Homemade decorations once again are fashionable. Making them might be an excellent pre-Christmas project for your family.

Today in America alone, more than 50 million trees each year decorate homes and offices, public squares, tiny village chapels and cathedrals.

Whether the choice is a familiar evergreen laden with lights, decorations and tinsel, or a metal tree with a few simple ornaments, the cherished focal point of Christmas past and present remains the stately Christmas tree. □

FREE OFFER TO COLLECTORS

MINNEAPOLIS (Special)—People who collect plates, bells, sculptures, figurines, stamps, and coins now can have *free* membership in Calhoun's Collectors Society.

President Stafford Calvin said, "I invite collectors to join Calhoun's while our membership rolls are open to new collectors."

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Energy Education Program Reaches 100,000 People

About 4,600 coffees, reaching roughly 100,000 people, were held nationwide on Nuclear Energy Education Day, Oct. 18.

Sponsored by Nuclear Energy Women, the event was organized to educate women across the country on nuclear energy. More than 150 coffees were held in North Carolina, some of them coordinated by members of the seven EMCs which participated in the project and several sponsored by the co-ops themselves.

Coffees were held for members at Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs; Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro; Halifax EMC, Enfield and Haywood EMC, Waynesville. At Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, early morning coffees were held for employees at all four district offices and the main office. Pitt and Greene EMC, Farmville, held a coffee on Oct. 10 as part of the EMC's Co-op Month Open House.

On Nov. 1, Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro, held a special program for members featuring a presentation on energy, with emphasis on the breeder reactor, by a representative from Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Cover Photo Features Hyatt Hotel "Tree"

This poinsettia Christmas "tree" was featured in the lobby of the Winston-Salem Hyatt Hotel during the 1978 Christmas season, and another like it was scheduled to be on exhibit at the hotel this year.

The "tree" consisted of 600 potted plants with about 2,500 blooms. It stood 21 feet high.

The idea for it originated with Hyatt executives in Knoxville who suggested it as a means of adding some Christmas spirit to the communities they serve.

The photo is by "Cookie" Snyder of the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

A number of national and regional "media events" were held to attract the attention of the media. In Washington, a brunch for congressional wives was hosted by Margaret McCormick and in Charlotte, a coffee for community leaders was hosted by Jan Lee, wife of Duke Power Co. President William Lee. Most of the speakers for the coffees were from the American Nuclear Society and included utility employees and university professors.

Counties Urged To Join State's Cemetery Survey

The Committee for the Study of Abandoned Cemeteries in North Carolina, a special group formed by the 1978 General Assembly, is encouraging all Tar Heel counties to help determine the number, location and condition of graveyards in the state, especially those that are abandoned.

Nineteen counties are now actively involved in the study: Alamance, Alleghany, Carteret, Columbus, Durham, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Hyde, Iredell, Johnston, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Randolph, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly and Yancey.

Any county which forms a cemetery survey committee under the leadership of a county coordinator may be included in the survey. The state committee will provide advice and instruction and furnish cemetery survey forms and United States Geological Survey maps to record the location of each cemetery.

Cemeteries are increasingly in danger of obliteration through neglect, vandalism, industrial expansion and other factors, according to Frank Gatton, committee secretary. Immediate steps must be taken to halt the desecration of old graveyards and to record the historical and genealogical information they provide.

Additional information may be

obtained from Michelle F. Lawing or Frank D. Gatton in the Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, 27611, or telephone (919) 733-3069.

Directors Elected At Five EMC Meetings

Twelve incumbents and four newcomers were elected to the boards of directors of five Tar Heel Electric Membership Corporations during the cooperatives' recent 1978 Annual Meetings:

- **Davidson**, Lexington—Three incumbent directors were re-elected for three-year terms. They were L. Wade Myers of Rt. 3, Thomasville; Max Walser of Rt. 14, Lexington and Richard Watts of Rt. 1, Walnut Cove.

- **Four County**, Burgaw—Two incumbent directors were re-elected for three-year terms. They were Mr. Lucille Eakins of Rt. 1, Watha and R.E. Pendergrass of Tomahawk.

- **Rutherford**, Forest City—Five incumbents were re-elected for three-year terms. They were Paul H. Robinson of Rt. 1, Bessemer City; Gary A. Whitener of Rt. 4, Hickory; Fred T. Boyd of Marion; Robert B. Sisk of Rt. 5, Morganton and Paul Dalton of Rt. 1, Lake Lure.


- **Pitt and Greene**, Farmville—Two newcomers and an incumbent director were elected for three-year terms. The incumbent was Hilton Webb of Rt. 1, Macclesfield. The newcomers were James E. Manning of Rt. 2, Walstonburg, who unseated incumbent Gordon Owens of Rt. 2, Walstonburg; and Roy Beaman Jr. of Rt. 1, Snow Hill, who unseated incumbent W. Ray Jones of Rt. 1, Snow Hill.

- **Tri-County**, Goldsboro—Two newcomers and an incumbent director were elected for three-year terms. The incumbent was Kenneth G. Grady of Rt. 1, Kenansville. The newcomers were Roscoe Ballance Jr. of Rt. 2, Fremont and James Dudley of Rt. 5, Mt. Olive, who unseated Raymond A. Mitchell of Rt. 5,

Goldsboro and Mrs. Vann Smith of Rt. 2, Seven Springs.

EMC Manager Tapped For State Utilities Post

The general manager of Wake Electric Membership Corporation, Wake Forest, has been appointed to the North Carolina Utilities Commission by Gov. Jim Hunt.

 Douglas P. Leary will succeed Robert Fischbach, who was appointed executive director of the commission's Public Staff in September. The appointment must be approved by the General Assembly, which does not meet until next June.

Leary will join the commission Jan. 1 to serve the remainder of Fischbach's term, which expires July 1, 1985. His annual salary will be \$41,484.

The Chowan County native has been manager of Wake EMC since 1972. Before taking that post, he served for more than 10 years as staff assistant of Four County EMC, Burgaw. An East Carolina University business administration graduate, he spent a year in the management training program of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. before entering the rural electric program.

He is married to the former Becky Warren of Littleton. They have three sons.

Telephone Co-op Program Marks 30th Anniversary

The Rural Electrification Administration recently celebrated 30 years of providing financing to rural telephone cooperatives and small independent systems throughout rural America, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

On Oct. 28, 1949, President Harry Truman signed into law the Hill-Boage Rural Telephone Act, which amended the Rural Electrification

Act of 1936 to include financing for telephone systems to furnish and improve telephone service in rural communities.

At that time only 38 percent of America's farms received telephone service. Today, 93 percent of the nation's farms have telephones, of which about 99 percent are dial rather than the antiquated hand crank magneto sets.

Addressing approximately 400 guests at the 30th anniversary ceremonies, REA Administrator Robert W. Feragen said, "REA's telephone program has been a tremendous success story. It has not

only succeeded here at home, but has also set the standard for the world. A number of Third World countries have patterned their own telephone programs after REA and have adopted REA's engineering specifications and construction techniques."

To date, rural telephone cooperatives and others have borrowed over \$4.7 billion in REA and Rural Telephone Bank loans and \$392 million in loan guarantees to provide service to 4.5 million subscribers over 816,000 miles of line in portions of 46 states, Puerto Rico and Guam.

George C. Norris, a Georgia native who has been serving as assistant state conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service in West Virginia, has been named Deputy State Conservationist with the federal agency in North Carolina.



Norris

He succeeds Lynn A. Brown, who recently became Washington state's top SCS official . . . **Dr. John Davenport Neville**, a Spring Hope native, has been appointed executive secretary of America's 400th Anniversary Committee. He will coordinate the work of a committee established by the General Assembly to commemorate the quadricentennial of the first English colonies in America. The former East Carolina University professor will be based in Chapel Hill . . .

Cynthia Lynne Gentry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Gentry of Stedman, has been selected as the 1979-80 North Carolina Poultry Queen by the N.C. Poultry Federation. Miss Gentry is a music student at Pembroke State University . . . **P. C. Collins** of Rt. 1, Laurel Springs, a director of Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, has been awarded a certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for completing the organization's management training program for co-op directors . . . **James M. Hubbard**, executive vice president of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, has been appointed to a four-year term on the board of directors of the 4-H Development Fund, which leads private fund-raising efforts for the statewide 4-H program. **Marshall Grant** of Rt. 1 Garysburg was elected president of the fund . . . **Willie Moore**, police chief of Atlantic Beach, has been elected to a three-year term as president of the National Association of Police Chiefs . . . **Ray Wilkinson**, vice president and rural affairs director at WRAL-TV/Tobacco Radio network, Raleigh, has been given the American Soybean Association's Broadcast Communications Award for 1979. The 33-year veteran of farm broadcasting was recognized for service to soybean producers through his coverage of production, marketing and related issues . . . A unique wooden "face box" by **Bob Trotman** of Casar in Cleveland County, is included in a wood collection at the mansion of Vice President Walter Mondale in Washington. The box was chosen for the collection by Mrs. Mondale. Trotman joined other represented craftsmen at a tea at the Mondales' official residence in early November.

Something For Every Member of the Family

There's something for every member of the family in this month's collection of U-Bild projects, which can keep Dad's workshop humming right into spring.

Butcher Block

No kitchen is complete without a good, old-fashioned chopping block where chefs can try their hand at some fancy cutting or dicing. But these days, it's hard to find one that is reasonably priced...and handsome to boot! So why not build one yourself?

The one we've designed provides four square feet of work space and is as easy to build as a box. The exclusive, hollow-core design eliminates the need for laborious laminating of heavy pieces of wood. Safe, too, for knives tucked neatly out of reach of children in the unit's own knife holder.

Basic materials are pine and Douglas fir, but you may choose a harder wood (like maple). Complete materials list, cutting schedule, detailed drawings, photos and instructions take the guess work from this easy project.

Sewing Cabinet

The sewing cabinet is attractive, mobile (on casters), easy to build and efficient. It will hold all of the 101 notions and tools owned by every person who sews. The roomy drawers are ideal for fabrics, trim and dozens of miscellaneous items. On the inside of each door are places for scissors, thread, patterns and other tools.

The top of the compact unit folds out giving you a large cutting and work surface.

Easy-to-understand, step-by-step directions and photos guide you through the various stages of construction.

Firetruck

Junior will have a ball with this neat firetruck. Using our pattern, just trace all the key parts onto plywood, cut out and assemble. Then paint it.

You start out with a 4' x 8' plus a 2' x 2' sheet of exterior plywood. Then follow our pattern sheet for traceable parts. The rear and front seats, hood, headlights, emergency lights, tail lights, fenders, steering wheel and axle supports are cut from the same material. Then you need such miscellaneous items as wheels (lawnmower wheels do just fine). Add some steel rod bolts, nuts, washers, cotter pins and PVC pipe. The final touches are the reel of rubber hose and ladder for fighting every

imaginable fire (maybe not the Great Chicago Fire but big enough).

Workshop Storage Units

Finally, Dad himself will find there's nothing like having a place for everything, and everything in its place—right in his workshop. This sums up the space-saving storage unit you can build from easy-to-follow patterns. The handy tool cabinet puts all your tools at your fingertips. With the doors open, you have over 3 square feet of storage space. An added bonus is the fold-down worktable.

The unique mini-tool cabinet (Picture B) is designed to store a smaller collection of hand and power tools, nails, hardware, etc. Just trace the full-size pattern onto plywood, saw out and assemble.

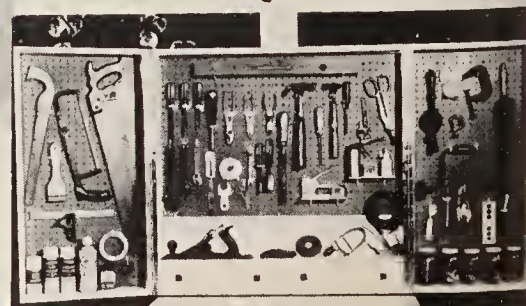
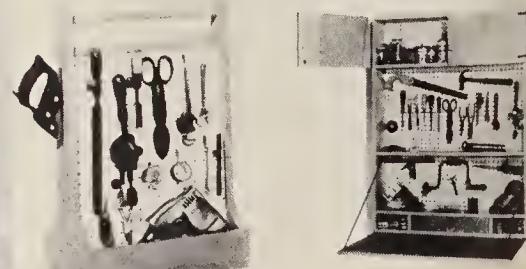
The tool caddy (Picture C) will hold all the tools necessary for a handyman on the go. At the bottom, space is provided for nails, bolts, etc.

Prices and Pattern Numbers

To order the Chopping Block kit, ask for Pattern No. 642. It's \$2. The Sewing Cabinet kit, Pattern No. 454, is \$3.50. The Antique Firetruck kit, Pattern No. 634, is \$2.75. Patterns for each of the Workshop storage Units are \$1.50. The Tool Cabinet is No. 316, the Mini-Tool Cabinet is No. 247 and the Tool Caddy is No. 268. All prices include first class postage and handling.

Mail check or money order to **Steve Ellington, c/o Carolina Count Pattern Department, P.O. Box 238, Van Nuys, Calif. 91409.**

For a copy of the Patterns For Better Living (picturing over 600 projects) ask \$1.75 to your order. All prices include postage & handling.



Dealing with the energy crisis

If you like the gasoline shortages of the 70's, you'll love the electric power shortages of the 80's and 90's

We're not joking.

Serious power shortages loom ever more menacingly. Long in the making, they'll be long in disappearing if we let them overtake us.

Chances are good that won't happen if, in concert with other necessary actions, the ball of red tape called the regulatory process is cut down to size—immediately.

The situation is urgent. Look at the facts.

Our nation's present generating capacity is 540,000,000 kilowatts. Conservative forecasts show that by 1990 we must be able to produce 300,000,000 kw more; by the year 2000, we'll need 200,000,000 kw on top of that.

Enough power plants to produce another 500,000,000

kilowatts must be built in just two short decades.

This is a formidable undertaking. Half the generating capacity needed by 1990 isn't under construction yet. Coal-fired plants started this year will take up to 10 years to complete, nuclear plants up to 14.

Why 2½ to three times longer to construct a plant today than 10 years ago? Because you must figure five to seven years just for the paperwork on, say, a million-kw coal-fired station.

This is intolerable.

Complying with a constantly growing tangle of overlapping, unclear, sometimes irrational, energy rules and regulations consumes weeks and months of expensive time. Every day of delay

on a million-kw plant adds more than \$300,000 to its cost.

At least with gasoline, patience and money can eventually get you a few gallons. But you can't carry kilowatts in a bucket or store them in a tank.

America can't afford these delays.

Consumers can't afford to pay the bill.

Energy rules and regulations can, and must, be streamlined—analyzed, consolidated, and eliminated where they serve no real purpose.

The regulatory process is intended to facilitate the achievement of objectives in the public interest. Certainly, for a nation as utterly dependent on energy as ours, it's in the public interest to regulate utility industries. Sensibly.

A message from the nation's consumer-owned nonprofit electric cooperatives and power districts



America's rural electric systems

For more information, write: Dept M, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 1800 Mass. Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

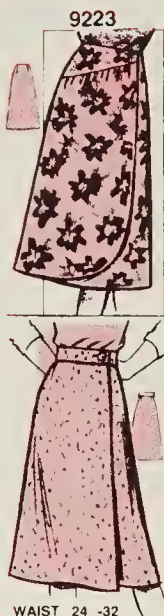
Fashion Favorites



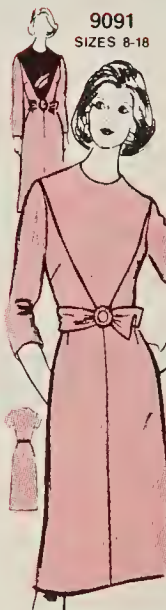
SIZES 8-20



6-14



WAIST 24 -32



SIZES 8-18



SIZES 10½-24½

Pattern No. 9321 is cut in Misses sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20.

Pattern No. 9075 is cut in Girls sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14.

Pattern No. 9223 is cut in Misses waist sizes 24, 25, 26½, 28, 30 and 32.

Pattern No. 9091 is cut in Misses sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.

Pattern No. 9284 is cut in Half sizes 10½, 12½, 14½, 16½, 18½, 20½, 22½ and 24½.

Send \$1.50 in cash (no stamps) for each pattern to: **CAROLINA COUNTRY**, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011. Add 50¢ for first class mail and special handling. Be sure to include your full address, zip code and pattern size.

Country Kitchen



COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. Ruth U. Wheeler of Durham

RAINBOW FROZEN DESSERT

- 1 round Angel Food cake
- 1 3-oz. pkg. strawberry Jello
- 1 3-oz. pkg. lime Jello
- 1 3-oz. pkg. orange Jello

- 1 10-oz. pkg. frozen strawberries, thawed
- 1 can blueberries, drained (can also use fresh or frozen)
- 1 can mandarin oranges, drained
- ½ gal. vanilla ice cream or ice milk (slightly softened)

Cut cake in thirds, and break into bite-size pieces into three bowls. Sprinkle the dry jello over the cake (strawberry in one, lime in another, and orange in the other). Stir with fork until all the cake is covered with Jello. Spray a tube cake pan with Pam. Pour into pan first the strawberry cake and Jello. Pack it down as layers are made. Over this, pour the strawberries, then about an inch layer of ice cream. Next make a layer of the lime cake and Jello. Sprinkle the blueberries over this, then another layer of ice cream. Next, make a layer of the orange cake and jellow and pack down. Place the orange slices around on this, and top with

remaining ice cream. Cover tightly with aluminum foil, and place in freezer for three days. Take it out of the freezer and set it down in hot water for about three seconds. Then run silver knife up and down around outer edge and around the tube. Turn onto a large plate. Cover tightly with foil again and return to freezer. Take it out and slice as many servings as you like, and return to freezer. (Makes about 20 servings).

OOPS!—The recipe for Oyster Pie in our November issue omitted cooking time and temperature: Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serves 8-10.

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: **COUNTRY KITCHEN**, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. We pay \$5 for published recipes.

Do Your Own Thing



Candles Add to Home Decor

These handsome candles can be created by you in your own kitchen! As you have probably noticed, in stores and gift boutiques, candlemaking has come a long way since those pioneer days when candlelight was used solely for illumination. Candles today are used alone, or combined with floral decorations to add dramatic accents to any home. This thorough guide to candlemaking has a total of 158 step-by-step pictures to guide you through the creation of all the candles pictured here, with no expensive kits required and no special training needed.

HANDY TIP: If, by accident, candle wax should drip onto your carpet, spread a brown grocery bag over the spot, and iron with a low-heat setting. The spot lifts like magic.

To obtain the "CANDLEMAKER," Instructional Guide #521, send \$2.75 (includes first class postage and handling) by check or money order to:

CAROLINA COUNTRY Pattern Dept. P.O. Box 2383, San Nuys, California 91409



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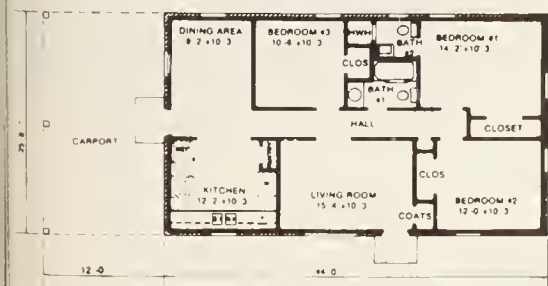
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Ethan Allen

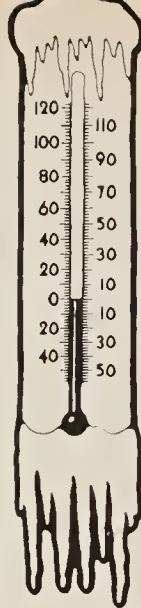
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How To Cope With Old Man Winter During Power Outages



If you experienced lengthy power failures during the severe ice and wind storms which have hit North Carolina in recent years, you know how unpleasant it can be to cope with Old Man Winter without electricity.

Here are some suggestions for dealing with that kind of situation:

WHAT TO DO

1. Wrap up in warm clothes. Put on several shirt-weight layers instead of one or two bulky garments. Thermal

SUPPLIES TO HAVE ON HAND:

- battery-operated radio to keep up with efforts to restore power
- flashlight with fresh batteries
- candles in glass chimneys for room light
- camp lantern with double mantles (ex. Coleman lantern about \$25) Filled, the lantern gives as much light as two 100-watt bulbs for up to 8 hours.
- matches
- hand-operated can opener
- portable camp stove (ex. 2 burner Coleman stove about \$20-30) Filled, the stove will heat about 2 hours on high, longer on lower settings.
- supply of Coleman fuel for stove or lantern or charcoal for cooking outside on grill
- supply of quick-to-heat canned foods like soup, chili, stew, etc. and/or instant foods like oatmeal, potatoes, soup, etc.
- Consider purchasing a catalytic heater and a supply of fuel if you do not have a fireplace, wood-burning stove, or coal stove.
- vacuum bottles for keeping liquids hot
- plenty of blankets, quilts or sleeping bags
- space blanket.

underwear is good, too.

2. Headquarter the family in one room with a heat source such as fireplace, wood-burning stove, coal stove or catalytic heater. Seal off all drafts. At bedtime, layer blankets or quilts over you or use a warm sleeping bag if you have one. The human body at rest gives off about 75 watts of heat. Sleep two or three family members together under the blankets or in zipped together sleeping bags. To save fuel during an extended outage, two or more families can headquarter together in one house or large room.

3. Keep the refrigerator and freezer closed. If the outage lasts until food starts to thaw and if it is cold outside, put the food outdoors in a shaded spot, and in a spot protected from animals. If the freezer door is kept shut and the freezer fully loaded, food should stay frozen for up to two days. If the unit is only half full, food will keep about a day. Most food can be safely refrozen if it has not been held more than two days at refrigerator temperatures (around 40 degrees F.) and if ice crystals remain.

4. When cooking, if you use a portable camp stove, use it either outdoors or in the fireplace or open a window in order to vent dangerous carbon monoxide fumes.

5. Store leftover food in vacuum bottles or prepare extra amounts while the stove and pan are hot. Store in vacuum bottle for later.

6. In extreme cold for extended periods, fill all the containers you can with drinking and cooking water. Fill the bathtub, too. Then drain the pipes to prevent their freezing and bursting.

7. Turn off all electrical appliances and unplug large appliances. Leave on one light so you will know when the power comes back on. By plugging your appliances back in one at a time, assuming other customers cooperate, you reduce the danger of an overload and a second loss of power whenever the power is restored.

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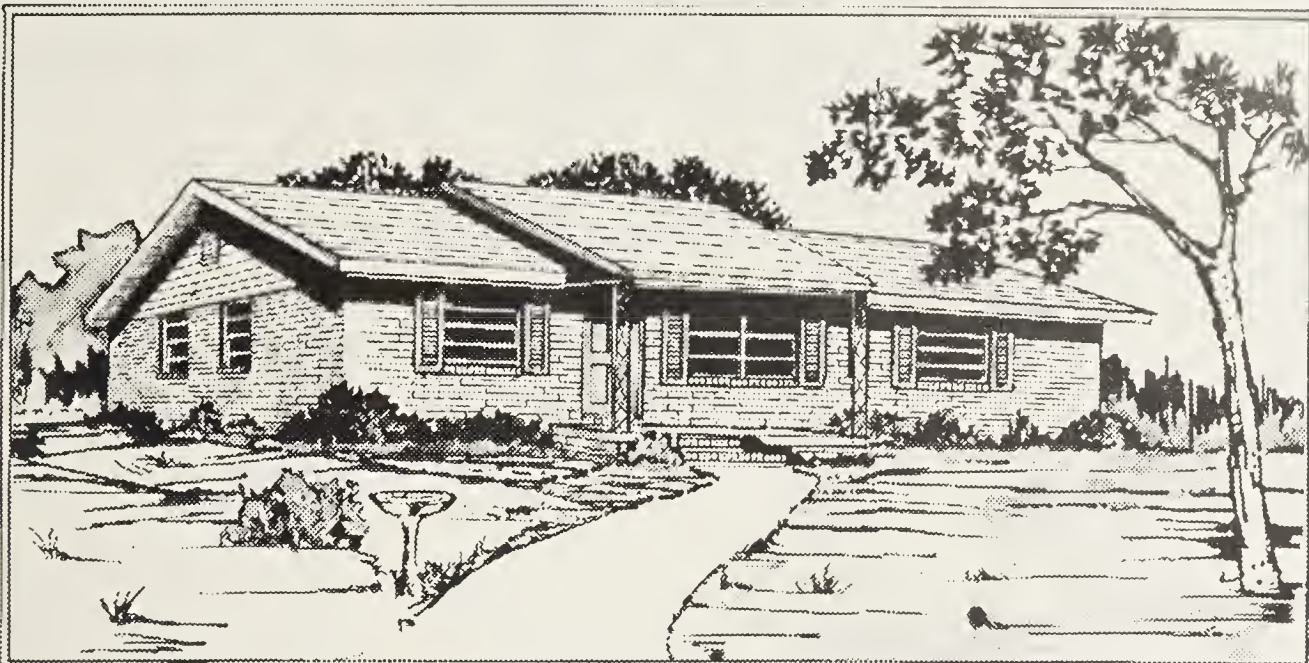
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CC-12

Panel Tosses Brickbats and Bouquets

North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations are generally doing an outstanding job of serving their consumer-members; but they tend to be too conservative and need to give greater emphasis to long-range planning.

That's the opinion of three EMC consumer-members who participated in a panel discussion of co-op operations during the 1979 EMC manager's conference in Blowing Rock.

The panelists, all of whom have been member-owners of EMCs for about 30 years, were A.G. Campbell of Statesville, a member of Crescent EMC, Statesville; Mrs. Rebecca Yates of Chadbourn, a member of Brunswick EMC, Shallotte and S. Oren Starnes of Monroe, a member of Union EMC, Monroe.

Campbell, who had contacted about 100 of Crescent's consumer-members prior to the session, said he'd found few who'd say

anything bad about the co-op.

"Even those who'd had the power cut off admitted that it was their fault," he said.

Mrs. Yates described the various services provided by Brunswick EMC, saying the co-op is especially effective in communicating with the members. The membership advised in advance of rate increases and have received helpful information about weatherization and other energy conservation measures.

"The only complaints I have heard are concerning the cutting of branches of trees for power lines," she added.

Starnes had nothing but praise for Union's service, but suggested that the EMCs could be too conservative.

"Co-ops have the tendency to be too conservative for their own good," he said. "They elect a conservative board and the board sometimes hires a management that's too conservative. An effective management is the key to the co-op's success."

Starnes expressed the hope that all co-ops are staying abreast of new developments and communicating with their members.

"I hope that my co-op has planned for 5, 10 or 20 years down the road and I hope they're doing some

First-Year Funding Okayed For Peat-Fired Power Plant

The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a measure authorizing a \$3.1 million appropriation for the first-year cost of a pilot project using peat to generate electricity.

The measure, an amendment to the Department of Energy budget, does not specifically mention plans by North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation to build the nation's first peat-fired generating plant, but the organization "has the best shot at getting a grant," according to Rep. Stephen Neal.

Rep. Neal introduced the funding amendment, which has not yet been passed by the Senate, when it became clear that there was no hope for adoption of legislation he'd sponsored earlier allocating \$81.7 million in federal funding for half the cost of N.C. EMC's proposed demonstration plant.

"It was not possible to get that bill passed this year," Neal said, adding that the amendment would provide construction funds for the first year.

"I will continue working for the full amount, and this action ought to make it easier."

The original proposal would have had N.C. EMC, the power supply cooperative serving 25 of the state's 28 EMCs, splitting the

cost of the plant with the government on a 50-50 basis over a seven-year period. However, the co-op would pay off about 80% of the federal share as a loan if the experiment proved successful.

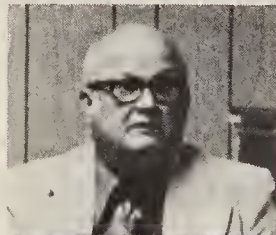
Neal said government funding for the project is justified by the risk the EMC organization would be taking in designing and building the nation's first such plant.

Although peat-fired generating plants have been in use in other nations for many years, new designs and technology would be required for the first U.S. plant.

Peat, which has thus far been ignored as a domestic source of energy, is the nation's most abundant fossil fuel, except for coal.

A four-county region of Northeastern North Carolina, where the proposed plant might be built, contains 407 million tons of peat deposits—enough to provide all the state's electricity needs for an estimated 23 years.

Much of that peat lies within the property of First Colony Farms, which has about 146,000 acres in Dare, Hyde, Washington and Tyrrell Counties. For the past three years, First Colony officials have been experimenting with methods of harvesting the peat for fuel.



Campbell:

EMCs need to generate their own power to avoid getting "in a corner."



Starnes:

Co-ops need to do some "day-dreaming."



Yates:

EMC boards need "both young and old members."

daydreaming. I hope the co-ops are looking for a share of the market to stay strong, and that they are doing what has to be done to do that. The development of North Carolina depends on the rural electric cooperatives."

Following the three members' presentations, they responded to several questions posed by the co-op managers:

• **How do you feel if your electric rates are 15-20 percent more than what the major power companies are charging?**

Starnes: "This much difference in rates would mean that the co-op hadn't done the necessary planning, and I would want a good explanation. It is also important for us to begin generating our own power."

Yates: "I would think that the co-op was in the process of growing, and to grow, they must have money."

Campbell: "If the power companies raise their rates, then the co-op must go up, too. I think it is most important that cooperatives generate their own power, and not get themselves in a corner."

• **Do we need more turnover on our boards of directors?**

Yates: "There should be a rotation plan, and there should be both young and old members on the board. The older ones can pass on advice to the young, and the young people can bring new ideas. I think the board members should be allowed to stay on the board long enough to accomplish what they want."

Campbell: "We should be careful who we select."

Starnes: "There should be an age limit on board members, and the managers should politick for the selection guidelines that they want."

• **What are good qualifications for directors?**

Starnes: "They should be progressive, liberal, well thought of in the community, and long-range planners."

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—Patty Shelley



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CC-12

Distinguished Guests Visit EMC

Two distinguished visitors came to call on Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, Red Springs, recently—a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and the top ranking rural electrification official of Thailand.

The journalist was syndicated Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Marquis Childs, center, visits Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs with Manager Derl Hinson, left, and Elias Rogers, president of the co-op's board of directors.



columnist Marquis Childs, who is visiting various rural electric co-ops across the nation gathering material for a book.

The foreign official was Dr. Chulapongs Chillakesa, director of his country's Provincial Electric Authority, who is in charge of total electrification of the Southeast Asian nation within the next 15 to 25 years. His visit was part of a tour of U.S. rural electric facilities under the auspices of the U.S. State Department.

Childs conducted interviews with Lumbee River EMC officials, local officials and co-op consumer-members as part of his research to update a 1952 book he wrote on the rural electric program, *The Farmer Takes a Hand*.

The most significant changes that have taken place since he wrote that book, he said, relate to the tremendous growth the co-ops

have experienced and to the acceptance within the industry.

"This is an era of cooperation," he said, pointing to the many instances where co-ops and private power companies are joining forces to build and operate power plants. "The early days were days of confrontation. The private utilities are cooperating with the co-ops because of the crisis in power."

Childs suggested that more co-ops need to follow the example of Lumbee River EMC and others in establishing outreach services that demonstrate "a genuine interest in their members' welfare beyond the traditional roles of providing electricity and related services."

He added: "The rural electric cooperative is much more than just a large power company, and rural electricity should not be taken for granted." □



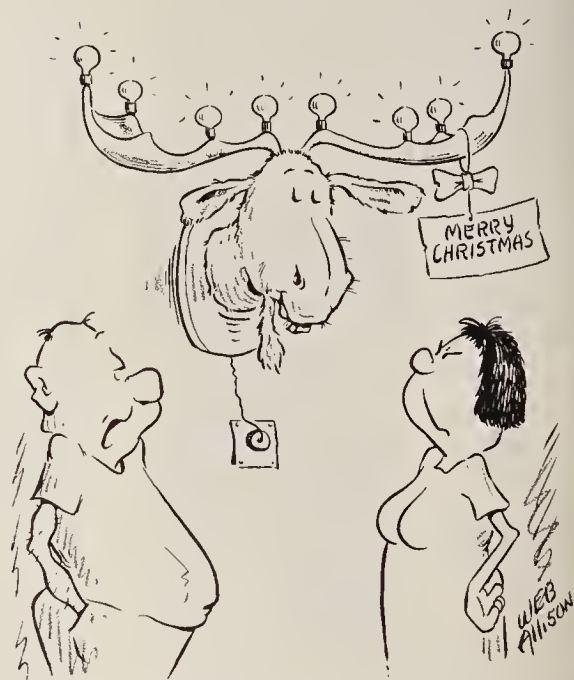
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Nuclear Energy Essential To Meet Nation's Demands

We're glad to see Duke Power Co. President Bill Lee and others in the utility industry standing up for nuclear power. For too long the utilities have been depicted as villains by critics who refuse to face the hard truth about energy.

True, we can no longer look to the atom as the ultimate source of cheap power. Public opinion, if nothing else, won't allow it. There are simply too many unanswered questions about its safety.

At the same time, our existing nuclear plants are serving millions of people too well to be shut down. There is simply no alternate energy source.

Solar energy will be ideal when it's perfected, but don't plan on plugging your toaster into a solar cell for a long time to come. By the turn of the century, sunlight may furnish ten to twenty percent of our energy needs. Even then, most of it will be used for things like heating water, not for operating appliances.

Government Inaction Brings Pile-Up of "Nuclear Ashes"

There must be some remote, desolate, uninhabitable places in the world, to which we have some access, where we can intelligently store our nuclear waste, a place out of harm's way where radioactive materials will not pollute our environment. A place where future generations will not be threatened by our lack of planning.

It is difficult to imagine that the scientific genius it took to harness the atom has not been sufficiently applied to a process of eliminating the dangerous by-products generated from its use.

If you burn wood or coal to heat your home, you certainly have to consider a way to successfully dispose of the ashes. Now it seems that many crucial agencies will be

Windmills are a romantic idea and are well-suited for some locations. But it would take 400 windmills the size of Boone's giant machine to meet the electrical needs of Mecklenburg County alone.

Synfuel plants are still on the drawing boards. There are few places left to build hydroelectric plants.

Some day, we hope alternate energy sources will become practical. But before that day comes we face years of research, and some necessary scientific breakthroughs are yet to be realized.

In the meantime, the utility companies have a duty to furnish us electricity, and nuclear power has to be part of the picture.

To depict the power industry as bad guys does nothing to move us toward rational solutions to our energy problem.

—WBT/WBTV Editorial
Charlotte

grinding to a screeching halt because we have no place to put the nuclear ashes. Two of the nation's three commercial nuclear waste dumping sites have been closed. The one remaining open is in Barnwell, S.C. and its use has been restricted.

So, where are the 2.5 million cubic feet of nuclear waste we produce each year going to be stored and who is responsible? Government agencies can't seem to agree on who has the authority. The Environmental Protection Agency says it's the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC says it's a state responsibility.

Meanwhile, the stuff keeps piling up.

WRAL-FM/WRAL-TV Editorial,
Raleigh

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Make Granny's Plum Cake For Christmas.

Here's a little Christmas present from your EMC. A special plum cake recipe that will be a great treat for your family and friends. And it's so easy, you'll probably want to make several during the holidays.

Granny's Plum Cake

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 cups self-rising flour | 1 teaspoon cinnamon |
| 2 cups sugar | 1 teaspoon ground cloves |
| 3 eggs | 2 jars junior plum baby food |
| 1 cup cooking oil | 1 cup chopped pecans |

Cream sugar and oil. Add eggs one at a time, beating each time. Mix dry ingredients and add to mixture. Add plums, then pecans. Bake in tube pan one hour and 15 minutes at 300 degrees.

Your EMC wishes you all the joys of an old-fashioned Christmas, and we hope Granny's Plum Cake will make it a tasty one.

